

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 13-24 are pending in the application. In this Response, claims 13, 14, and 19-22 have been amended for clarity. Exemplary support for the amendments can be found throughout the claims and specification as filed. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 13-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite.

Applicant respectfully submits that in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions, claims 13, 14, and 19-22 have been amended for clarity.

With regard to the rejection of claim 19, the phrase "apparatus further comprises the following means" has been replaced with "apparatus further comprises". Applicant respectfully submits that this amendment obviates the need to amend "bonder follower device" and "guide sheet" to include *means* language.

Further, with regard to the rejection of claim 19, the Examiner sets forth that "for accurately bonding" and "for roughening and pre-marking" are ambiguous and unclear such that it is uncertain what means/apparatus structure is required. Applicant respectfully submits that it would be clear to one of ordinary skill in the art that the bonder follower device which includes a lower table (29) and an upper counter-table (36) or a lower roller (40) and an upper roller (41) is required for accurate bonding. Applicant further respectfully submits that it would be clear to one

of ordinary skill in the art that the bonder follower device which includes a stamper (37) and a counter-stamper (38) or a stamper (67) and a counter-stamper (68) is required for roughening and pre-marking. (See, for example, pages 9-11 of the present specification). However, the present invention is not limited to the disclosed embodiment.

Finally, with regard to the rejection of claim 22, "said table" has been replaced with "table" to overcome the lack of antecedent basis rejection. Moreover, in claim 22, the phrase "said table, beaters, projecting points, guide" has been replaced with "said table, beaters, projecting points, and guide". Applicant respectfully submits that it would be clear to one of ordinary skill in the art that the aforementioned phrase means that the guide sheet 42 covers the table 48, the beaters 18, projecting points 19, guides for the facing paper 8 and thus protects the packing pieces against any risk of becoming detached in this region. (See, for example, page 11, lines 18-20 of the present specification). However, as noted above, the present invention is not limited to the disclosed embodiment.

In view of at least the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants invite the Examiner to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below if any issues remain in this matter, or if a discussion regarding any portion of the application is desired by the Examiner.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

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